

|| ON MEDICINE, MITHRIDATUM. 1585. ||







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DISCOURSE

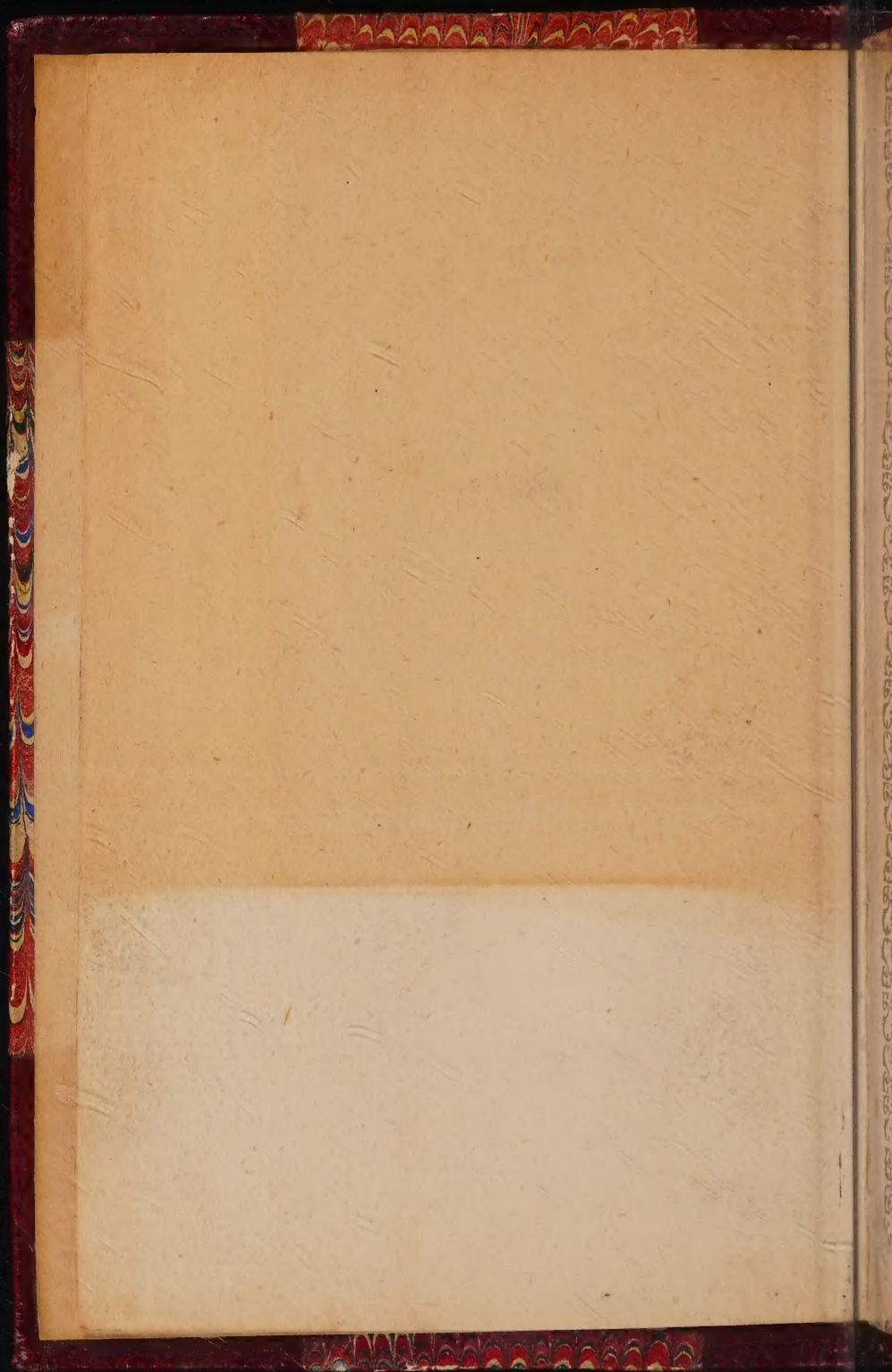
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A DISCOURSE
OF THE
medicine called
Mithridatium, declaring
the firste beginninge, the
temperament, the noble
vertues, and the true
vse of the same:

Compiled ra-
ther for those which are
to vse it, then for
the learned.

1585.

A discourse

and in captiue maner be shewed in triumph. For this noble king was not only valiant in warre, but also in phisicall matters very expert, had the knowledg of many hearbes, and making tryall of sundry simples that doe resist popson in men condemned to dye, as Galen writeth in his first booke *de Antidote*, and finding some to remedy þ popson of Spiders, some of Scorpions, some to doe good against the byeing of Vipers, others of mad Dogs, many to remedy the poison of hearbes, and so sundry others to help the venime of sundry poisons: he endeoured to make a mixture of diuerse simples, hoping thereby to haue a ready remedy against all kindes of poison, & the same was termed after his name Mithridatium: wherein he was nothing deceived. For this noble king in his life time vsed much and often þ medicine. And (as it is written) being subued by the Romaines, and making choise rather to dye then to be led captiue to Rome, attempting to kill him selfe with poison, and taking of it great quantity, tooke no harme thereof, for that his body (as þ history saith) by vse of þ medicine altered, & resisted the action of the poison. Notwithstanding his wife and two daughters dyed before his face with the same poison. Since that
time

of Mithridatium.

time, the efficacy and strength of þ medicine, hath in all ages (euen vnto these our dayes) bene confirmed. For after that Pompey the great had cōquered this valiante king, search made in his Closets, amongst sundry Iuels, many secret medicines to expell diuerse poisons, and to cure other internall diseases, were founde: where also was the description of this medicine. And albeit Pompey, as a marttall man, had greatestt care of other matters, yet aduertised what goodnes might come by such secret medicines, commaunded one Pompeius Lineus his libertine, well scene in sciences, to conuert all those medicines written in the Pontike tongue, into latine. And it both appeare by the history, that many volumes of phisicall matters were there founde, which perused and considered of by Asclepiades, in those dayes a famous phisition in Rome, were by him commended, and at his petition translated into latine, whereof Pliny writeth in his 25. booke. Of so many excellent medicines left by Mithridates, none was so highly esteemed, & so well accounted of in all respects, as that termed Mithridatium: whose excellent vertues against poison were first approued in Mithridates owne body, and after confirmed by þ Romaines.

In

A discourse

In trueth a man may iustly blame the hystoryographers, which in describing the noble actes of Pompey the great, doe so slenderly passe ouer this his acte, in translating of this medicine experienced of this noble king. If or in my iudgemēt things iustly weighed, none of all Pompeyes valiante feates of armes, no not the royall triumph made at Rome to declare the victoꝝ in cōquering king Mithridates, hath so largely aduanced his name, as the making knowne to the world of this medicine. If or the profit of y^e victoꝝ came on-ly to Rome, and the triumph and praise for y^e same done at y^e time in Rome: But the profit of this medicine hath bene by his meanes imparted to y^e whole world, & the cōmendation and praise for the same, is iustly to be yeelded from all the world in all ages and times: So that as all the world is greater then Rome, & all times moze then one age, so doubtlesse moze renowme is due vnto Pompey for diuulging of this medicine, then by the conquering of this king, or by the triumph for the same. Although in the Emperoure Nero his time, succeeded a learned phisition called Andromachus, who to the imitation of this medicine compounded an other, adding to the description of Michridatium the flesh of Tapers

of Mithridatium.

pers, and some other simples, which medicine he called Theriaca, of the Greeke worde *Θηρίον*, which doth signifie a wilde and venemous beast, whereof the Viper is one. Yet this ought not to imbase any praise due to Mithridates for compounding of Mithridatium. For all men doe know that it is easier to adde to a thing done, then to finde out the same, and greatest praise is to be geuen to the first inuentor. So that the dishonour y^e came to Mithridates by Pompey his victorie was not so great, as the praise and commendation for the inuention and compounding of Mithridatium. And his calamity to be overthrowen is greatly eased, his ignomy to be conquered after a sorte aduanced, that by the same this medicine was diuulged, which happely would not haue bene performed, at y^e least so generally, had he dyed otherwayes, and not bene by Pompey ouercommed. For had not Mithridates in him selfe approoued the excellency of the medicine, purposing to haue killed him selfe rather then to come into the handes of the Romaines, surely the notable vertues of the medicine would not so well haue bene believed. And had not this king in that his miserable estate made triall in his owne body, who would haue believed
that

A discourse

that a mans body might by any meanes be brought so strongly to resist poison: Who but one in so desperate a case, would attempt to take strong poison vpon the credit of any medicine: Great good therefore to the whole world this ouerthrowe of Mithridates did breed: And great renoune thereby came, not to the conqueroure onely, but to the conquered: to the one for inuenting, to the other for diuulging of so great a medicine, which for these two thousand yeares hath bene of all men in all ages had in great estimation, not in Pontus onely & Bithinia, & Greece adioyning to the same, but in all other nations and countryes where any learning is, commended by all writers, Grecians, Arabians, and Latinists. And what greater assurance can there be of the notable vertues of this medicine, then the confirmation of the same from Mithridates to this our time, then that all phisitions of the world in all ages, times, and places, in Greece, in Arabia, in Italia, in all partes of Germany, in France, in Spayn, in Portingal, in Hungaria, in England, in Scotland, Moscouia, Tartaria, Suenia, yee in all partes of Asia, Aphrica, and Europa, euen amongst the saluage and barbarous nations, hath and both greatly esteeme of Mithridates.

of Mithridatium.

thridatium, and so of Theriacle, and seeke
and prouide for them to serue their countreyes
in cases of neede. Now carefully all princes &
rulers, hath & doth take order for the well cō-
pounding of these medicines. Doubtles hau
not experiente confirmed their excellent qua-
lyties, the estimation would not haue so ma-
ny yeares continued : but longe befoze this
our age, would haue bene diminished, and by
this time come to nothing. Great therefore
are these medicines, and in a heigh degree to
be esteemed. And albeit great prayse and cō-
mendation is due to both medicines (I meane
Mithridatium and Theriacle) yet greatest
praise is to be geuen to Mithridatium. First
because of his antiquytie, which was of Mi-
thridates inuented, & approued many yeares
befoze Theriacle was compounded. For long
after Mithridates was ouerthrowen, Andro-
machus phisition to Nero y^e Emperour, & ve-
ry expert in cōfecting of medicines) as Ga-
len writeth in his first booke *de Antid.*) with
diligence considering the composition of Mi-
thridatium, chaunged some of the simples,
toke out some, and added others, supposinge
by that alteration to make the medicine more
perfite, & of mightyer force against poison. In
which consideration he added the flesh of vi-
perg

A discourse

pers to the composition of Mithridatium, and leauing out some simples vsed of Michridates, added others, in number moe, and (as he thought) of greater power against popson. Whereby it may reasonably bee gathered, & Andromachus not fully satisfied with the composition set downe by Mithridates, supposing some defect in it, by that his alteration, endeououred to make an other medicine in all degrees more persite, in which no want might be found, and so he addressed the same, and called it Theriaca. Whereby no doubt some good time after, Mithridatium was lesse esteemed, and the credit thereof much imbased, untill time by longe experience had sufficiently declared, wherein Theriacle doth excell Mithridatium, and in what poynts Mithridatium is not onely not inferiour to Theriacle, but of more efficacy then it.

So Galen in his first booke *de Antidot.* writeth. *Because of the flesh of Vipers in Theriacle, it is much better in the byting of the Viper then Mithridatium. But in all other effects, Theriacle can not onely not doe more then Mithridatium, but is inferiour.* The same Galen in 2. *de Antidot.* writeth in like sorte. *We will begin (saith he) with the description of Mithridatium, for it is stronger against many poisons*

of Mithridatium.

sons then Theriacle, though this be better a-
gainst the byting of the Viper. Whereby we
may gather y^e where Andromachus endeou-
ring to make a moze perfite medicine, then y^e
lesse of Mithridates, did in some part accom-
plish his purpose, leauing a medicine excel-
ling the other in one particular thing, but not
of like efficacy generally. It happened there-
fore in this case (if a man may compare na-
tures actions to arte) as in y^e framing of mā,
who doth in all actions excede all creatures,
yet not so generally, but y^e in some one action
some one beast doth excel man, as we reade y^e
the Eagle hath perfiter sighte then man, the
Dogge doth passe man in smelling, the Ape
in agility, the Tiger in swiftnesse. But who-
soeuer will with reason conferre all actions,
he shall find in all together, that man passeth
all creatures, for such is his constitution and
temperature, that moe and perfiter actions
doe proceede from man thē any one creature.
So it came to passe, that Andromachus in-
deuoring to make a medicine of greater per-
fection then Mithridatium, obtayned that in
one thing his medicine excelled, but in many
other was inferiour to Mithridatium. For a
man may gather the vertues of these two me-
dicines, at large displayed in Galens woꝝkes.

A discourse

into three orders. First that they are good against the biting and stinging of venemous beastes, be they Serpentes, Scorpions, mad Dogges, or others. Secondly they serue to cure all kinde of poysons taken into the body. Thirdly to remedy other inwarde diseases. Now it is certaine, and long experience hath confirmed, that both these medicines haue strong and mighty vertues to remedy al three kindes of effectes: yet no doubt one of them is in some effectes of more power then the other. As Galen writeth that Theriacle for biting of Vipers, is stronger then Michridatium: In other it doth exceede Theriacle. So we may iustly conclude with Galen, that against the biting & stinging of beastes, Theriacle hath more force: But for inward poysons & inward diseases, truly Michridatium is of more might. Wherefore albeit both medicines are noble, & greatly to be desired, yet Michridatium is to be accounted of greater price, as hauing more generally stronger vertues, and seruing to more purposes. And it may be objected, that in Theriacle compiled by Andromachus are many simples added, which haue great vertue against diuerse kindes of poysons, and happily are therein of more efficacy, then those in Michridatium,

Icfe

of Mithridatium.

left out by Andromachus in his Theriacle.
Whereby it may be coniectured, that Andromachus making choyle of the simples, selected such as were of greatest force to remedy poisons, & omitted the weaker, adding in their place, some other of more strength: so it is probable, y^e Theriacle so compiled, is of greater myght in all kinde of poysons. But Galen in his workes declareth, that experience in his time did shewe the contrary, and reason confirmeth the same. For let the simples in Theriacle be in number moe, and in qualytie of greater efficacy, yet it must be remembred, that it is certayn, that when in compositions some one simple is set as the base and ground of that medicine, that that simple doth drawe the force and strength of all y^e rest to his property and action, and so euery such compound is specially good in that one thinge for which it was deuised. Now when Andromachus did make the flesh of vipers as the base and ground of his Theriacle, it foloweth that the same doth drawe to it the qualities and vertues of all the simples in Theriacle: so it doth come to passe, that Theriacle is far better then Mithridatium, against the bytinge of vipers and such venemous beasts. And for that all other simples in it, are caried by the flesh of the vipers

A discourse.

vipers, to exercise their force strongly therein, they haue the lesse power to remedy other poisons. When no such thinge was intended in the composition of Mithridatium, it is agreeable to reason that the simples in it euery one retaineth his owne power and property, and so one such quality or forme doth resulte by the myxture, of great strength against all poisons. Moreover it is certayne that in the composition of Mithridatium, are fewer simples in number then are in the confection of Theriacle, then it followeth that when like quantity of both is taken, as for example, 3 j, surely a greater portiō of euery one simple is taken in Mithridatium, and lesser in Theriacle, the lesser quantity must needes haue lesser strength in remedyinge of other poisons, saue that, to the which the base or ground doth call them. So it remaineth fyne that Galen writeth, as obserued in his time, that Theriacle is in deede better then Mithridatium in bytinge of vipers and like beastes, and that Mithridatium exceedeth th'other in remedying all other poisons taken into the body and inward diseases. Wherefore in this our countrey where no such perill and danger is of vipers, Mithridatium by good reason ought to be reputed of greater estimation then Theriacle.

Of the

of Mithridatium.

Of the composition of Mithridatium.



I Shall not be amisse in this place, to declare the composition of this medicine. And it is to be noted, that where all writers doe greatly commend it, yet certayne it is, that they do not in one sorte describe the makinge of the same. But almost euery authore hath a seuerall description, differinge in the number of the simples, and also in p proportions and quantities. In time past p Apothecaries in making of Mithridatium, folowed most the description of Nicolaus Prepositus, of Auicenna, and of Nicolaus Mirephicus, some of Aetius, some of Paulus. The former descriptions contayninge about one hundred simples, were long and laborious, and required many supplies, for simples vnknown. Wherefore in these our later daies, in which learned men haue examined euery thing perfectly, the most part haue commended one of p three compositions exprested by Galen in 2. *de Antid.* of the which, two were taken (as Galen wyrteth) out of the bookes of Andromachus. The first found without name is attributed

A discourse

butted to Andromachus, as compounded by him, of others supposed the very same, which was found in the closets of kinge Mithridates, & after transcribed in the woorkes of Andromachus. The second description is also recyted out of Andromachus booke, vnder the names of Antipater and Cleophantes. The thyrd is referred to Damocrates: It doth not appeare by any thing written by Galen, which of these thre compositions is best to be folowed. And so of y^e learned men of our time, some hath vsed the one, and some the other. Many doe best like of the first description attributed to Andromachus, both for that Andromachus by the opinion of Galen and of all other auncient wyters, was adiudged very skilfull in cōpounding of medicines, & therein did farre excell all phisitions of his time, and also because it may bee iustly gathered, that that description is the very same, which Mithridates vsed. For in y^e Andromachus was phisition to Nero the Emperour of Rome, it appeareth that he obtayned to see and to consider, of all the bookes which found in Mithridates closet, were translated into latine by Lineus the grammarian, and brought to Rome. And it is not agreable to reason, that Andromachus studying to make
a more

of Mithridatium.

a more perfit medicine then that which came vnder the name of Mithridatium, woulde alfo inuent an other vnder the same name. But it is very probable that Andromachus with diligence perusinge the receipt of Mithridatium, vſed of Mithridates, woulde leaue it in ſuch forme as Mithridates compounded it, and deuise an other by the ſame, which hee meant to make more perfit. Andromachus therefore not alteringe the deſcription of Mithridatium, but leauing it in the ſame forme as it was founde, conſected an other, which he called Theriaca. And where we doe reade in *lib. 2. de Antid.* of Galen, an other receipt ſet downe vnder the name of Theriaca Mithridatis, with aſſertion that the kinge vſed the ſame: yet it ſeemeth not to be *lib. 2.* Mithridatium which was found in the cloſet of that king. For all writers doe conſiſſe, that Andromachus long after added to that receipt of Mithridates, the fleſh of vipers: ſo that Mithridatium compounded by Mithridates had not in it the fleſh of vipers, and that Theriacle which Galen in that place calleth Theriaca Mithridatis, doth receaue the fleſh of vipers, ſo it followeth that it is not the Mithridatium vſed of Mithridates. And he that will with diligence peruſe that receipt mentioned of Galen,

B.

by the

A discourse

by the name of Theriaca Mithridatis, shall finde it in þ simples not much differing from Theriaca Andromachi, and many things repeated twyse in diuers clauses doth argue an imperfection: that Galen may be thought in þ place to speake after þ common opinion, whē hee affirmeth it to be the same which Mithridates vled, being in deede farre different from that medicine. Wherefore we may reasonably conclude, that the first recept transcribed by Galen in 2. de Antid. out of Andromachus workes, is in truth the selfe same that Mithridates vled, and in mine opinion, in that respect the better to be liked, and the rather to be followed. For what better assurance can we haue of the true and perfect confection of this medicine, then that which was deliuered by Mithridates? and what description can more assure vs of the effects of this medicine, then þ composition which Mithridates followed, who first gaue so notable proofof the medicine, and thereby the first credite to the same? So that if by discourse of reason it may be proued, that an other description is more artificiall and more agreeable to the rules of confection of medicines: yet in mine opinion this description, being the same that Mithridates vled, set downe happely by
the

of Mithridatium.

the king, more according to experience then art, is rather to be folowed then any other, thought more cunningly addressed. Neuertheless it is not to be deemed that kinge Mithridates was altogether unskyllfull, when many volumes concerning phisike were found in his closet, & translated into latine, brought to Rome. And it appeareth that he taking delight in medicinall matters, had about him dyuerse phisitions, who mighte artificially dispence the simples in Mithridatium. And Galen in the sayd booke *de Antid.* commendeth the description of Mithridatium attributed to Andromachus: whereby it appeareth, that this description of Mithridatium is not addressed altogether without arte. For which cause, y^e learned of our time, haue great reason to preferre that description of Mithridatium before others. Albeit some do more esteeme the composition of Damocrates, as with more arte and more cunning dispensed. Notwithstanding because it is very likely y^e the precept attributed to Andromachus, as found in his bookes, is the selfe same that Mithridates vsed, and hath of many, in this our countrey, of late yeares bene folowed: I thought best in this place to expresse y^e same, as I doe finde it in Galen, in 2. *de Antid.* and

A discourse

is in many antidotary bookes a Iolued, which
is as foloweth.

Rec. glicirrizæ	3	vj.	ob. iiij.
Spica nardi	3	vj.	ob. ij.
Croci, cinnamomi,	}	ana. 3	vj.
Zinziberis.		ob. ij.	
Galbani.		3	vj.
Castorei, costi,	}	ana. 3	vj.
Scordij, iunci odorati,		ob. ij.	
Opoponacis,			
Terebinthina.			
Seminis dauci.	3	vj.	ob. ij.
Opobalsami,	}	ana. 3	vj.
Thlaspios.		ob. iiij.	
Thuris, myrrhe,	}	ana. 3	vj.
Succi hyppocistidis.			
Polij, Scelios,	}	ana. 3	v.
Cypheos, Casia.		ob. ij.	
Stiracis	3	v	ob. iiij.
Petroselini	3	iiij.	ob. iiij.
Opij.	3	iiij.	ob. ij.
			Nar-

Of Mithridatium.

<i>Nardi gallica,</i>		
<i>Seminis feniculi,</i>	}	
<i>Nardi indica,</i>		
<i>Gentiana,</i>		
<i>Mei athamantici,</i>	}	<i>ana ʒ. iij</i>
<i>Rosarum siccarum,</i>		
<i>Cardamomi, Folij.</i>		
<i>Anisi,</i>		<i>ʒ. iij</i>
<i>Acori, Hiperici,</i>	}	
<i>Gummi Acacie,</i>		
<i>Phu pontici.</i>		<i>ana ʒ. ij</i>
<i>Scinci,</i>		<i>ʒ. ij. ob. ij</i>
<i>Vini choi,</i>		<i>& mellis Attici defumati,</i>
<i>ana</i>		<i>q. s.</i>

BEcause many learned men of this age doe
 best allowe the description of Mithridati-
 um, deliuered by Damocrates, as more artifi-
 cially done, in which the rules of compound-
 ing of medicines are more exactly followed,
 and is in cruth easier to be made of the Apo-
 thecaries, better digested in orders, not ha-
 uing so small diuisions in the proportions, as
 this attributed to Andromachus, and so may
 better be made of the Apothecary in what
 quantity shall seeme good to him: therefore

B. 3.

I doe

A discourse

I doe thinke it not amisse in this place to recite that description also of Mithridatium of Damocrates, as the same is expressed in the second booke of Galen *de Antidot.* that such as shall thinke better to follow the same, may by this pamphlet knowe the ingredience, which is this.

Rec. Mirrha, croci,

Agarici, Zinziberis,

Cinnamomi, thuris,

Spica, Nardi,

Thlaspios,

ana. ʒ. x

Seselis, stechados,

Opobalsami, costi,

Iunci odorati, styracis,

Galbani, terebinthina,

Piperis longi, castorei,

Succi hypocistidis,

Opoponacis,

Folij malabathri recētis,

ana. ʒ. viij

Cassia lignea,

Polij, scordij, Se-

minis dauci, bdellij,

Piperis albi, cypheos,

Carpobalsami,

ana. ʒ. vij

Nar-

Of Mithridatium.

<p><i>Nardi celtica, Gūmi,</i> <i>Petroselini, Opj, Car-</i> <i>damomi, gentiana, Se-</i> <i>minis feniculi, dictāni,</i> <i>Foliorum rosarum,</i> <i>Anisi, asari, acori,</i> <i>Phu, sagapeni,</i> <i>Succi glicirriza,</i> <i>Mei Athamantici,</i> <i>Acacia,</i> <i>Ventris scinci,</i> <i>Sem. hiperici,</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 4em;">}</p> <p style="font-size: 4em;">}</p> <p style="font-size: 4em;">}</p> <p style="font-size: 4em;">}</p>	<p><i>ana. ʒ. v.</i> <i>boni pon-</i> <i>deris.</i></p> <p><i>ana. ʒ. iij</i></p> <p><i>ana. ʒ. ij ʒ</i></p>
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Vini & mellis *q. s.*

Pliny in his 22. maketh mention of a kinde
of Mithridatium made of two dry Mal-
nuts, two Figges, xx. leaues of Rhue, one
grate of salter. Aetius and other writers doe
recit the same. And they greatly cōmend it
agaist poison, & other pestilentiall diseases.

Of the quality and temperament
of Mithridatium.

A discourse



This of all men of our age confessed, and taken for a truth, that medicines compounded haue their vertues, and doe their effectes according to the nature of the simples whereof they are compounded. So it must needes followe, that Mithridatium compounded of many simples, hath diuers & sundry properties, & those agreeable to the ingredience. And wheras in Mithridatium are simples differing in quality, some hauing power to heate, some other to coole, yet the greatest number are in quality whot and dry. And albeit these being contrary, and repugnant, do make alteration the one with the other: notwithstanding it must needes followe, that those reactions nor being infinite, at the last one forme and quality must result in the compound, agreeable to the natures of those simples, which doe reare and cary dominion. Now whereas in Mithridatium most simples haue quality to heate and dry: it followeth that Mithridatium hath a whot and dryinge power. And as compounds must haue a time of fermentatio, and rippening (for the reactions of the simp's are not perfected in a moment). So the quality or forme which doth arysse by the worke of
one

of Mithridatum.

one simple with an other, hath not his perfection presently after þ mixture, but a certayne space of time must be geuē before we can iustly expect the true action of the medicine compounded, as proceeding from the forme of the medicine, which doth resulte by fermentation of the working of the simples in þ compound. So that before þ due time, we may not loke for the vertues aunswerable to the composition, but that some one simple aboue the rest may shew his quality, that the compound medicine may do an effect aunswerable to that simple, and not as proceeding from the whole composition. In which respect, Galen wytteth that Theriacle newly made, doth greatly prouoke sleepe, by reason that Opium (that is the ioyce of Poppy prepared) myngled in it, being of greater force then other simples, before fermentation doth exercise his quality more then the rest: and after that his quality is by fermentation with other simples broken, he can not so strongly do his operation. So Theriacle after the iust time of fermentation doth not so mightely prouoke sleepe, as newe Theriacle doth. The same is obserued in Mithridatum, and all other compounds, that immediately after myxture, the qualities of the simples are strongest, and shewe their powers best.

best. But certaine it is, that after due time of working, when the compound is fully rype, no one simple doth worke in it according to his owne nature, but by the reactions one common nature doth result, which cannot be attributed to any one or moe simples, but may be truly sayd a common nature arysinge out of all the ingredience, and from that forme the actions of the compound do proceede. Which forme is to vs not certainly knowen, & effects are best learned by experience. Wherefore it is very wysely wyrtten of *Ioannes de sancto Amando* in his exposition vpon the antitodary of *Nicolaus*, that it is better alwaye to vse a medicine compound exercised, then one lately inuented whereof we haue no experience. For although we may by discourse of reason gather that y^e compound, as *Mithridatium*, is whot and dry, because y^e simples wherof it is made, are the most part whot and dry, and then experience doth confirme this coniecture: yet other qualities of *Mithridatium* and of other compounds are not so easely knowen by any discourse or method, but chiefly learned by experience. For the comon forme from whence many secrete vertues doe proceede, is not knowen by any learning or methode. So it must needes follow, that the actions of y^e same forme are

of Mithridatium.

are not learned by methode or doctrine, but chiefly by experience. In which respect also, we haue reason to retaine the description deliuered by Mithridates, before any other, for þat noble king gaue better pꝛofe in himselfe of the vertues of the medicine, then any other hath of it by any other composition.

That Mithridatium is not so whote as Theriacle, compounded after Andromachus description, which is in these dayes most followed: and that it may more safely bee vsed.



Some learned men of our time, by reason go about to discourse, and pꝛooue, þat Theriacle is not in quātitie so whote as Mithridatium, & in that respect doe inferre, that it may more safely bee vsed. Which they doe gather, for that in Theriacle a greater quantity of Opium (that is the ioyce of Poppy prepared) is, then in Mithridatium, whose cooling power doth much abate the heating qualities of other medicines. This argument in these
two

A discourse

Two medicines newly made, before fermentati-
on is perſice, may take place. For then in deede
every ſimple retainning his owne vertue, Opi-
um may remitte the whot qualities of the reſt:
at what time neither of theſe medicines is ge-
nerally to be uſed, but for ſome ſpeciall point,
as Galen to prouoke ſleepe, doth counſell in
Theriacle. But after fermentation is perſi-
ted, all the ſimples one altering the other, & ue-
ry one hath qualities ſo broken, that not one
retaineth his owne nature: then ſurely the cō-
mon forme reſulting, doth follow the ſimples
which doe beare dominion, and they in both
theſe medicines are whot and dry, and ſo whot
and dry ſimples in Theriacle are more in num-
ber, and of greater force, then in Mithridati-
um: ſo may appeare to him that will compare
both confections. Whereby it followeth that
the common quality aryiſſinge in Theriacle,
doth heate more then that in Mithridatium.
Neither the increaſe of Opium doth in pro-
portion aunſwere the ſtrength of heating in it:
neither hath it any ſuch force ſo greatly to
contemper the ſimples, as theſe men doe ima-
gine. For although Opium hath ſpeciall pro-
perty aboue other medicines to induce ſleepe,
yet his cooling quality (of many writers) is not
accompted ſo great, for it hath ſo ſtrong bitter-
neſſe

of Mithridatium.

Next that many doe suppose that it hath a myxe nature, consisting of many whot partes: if it be true that Galen wyrteth in his 5. booke of simples, that all bitter thinges are whot, and being certaine y Opium doth stupefy, & strongly cause sleepe, it is of some inferred y that power doth rather proceede of a property of substance, then altogether depend of his cooling quality. Wherefore it is not without reason asseymed by learned men wyrting hereof, that Mithridatium doth not so strongly heate as Theriacle: and experience doth also confirme the same. For who so vseth these medicines, doubtles he shall finde that Theriacle rightly compounded after Andromachus description (which is in all this treatise to be vnderstood, and is in these dayes of the Apothecaries most commonly made, and so of the wyser sort in most vulgare vse) doth heate more then Mithridatium, which is confessed of the wyrters, commenting vpon the antidotary of Nicolaus, and in this our age of many learned men asseymed. For which cause, many in these dayes without daunger do vse Mithridatium when neede requireth. In some time, & whot seasons, very few and seldome Theriacle. And Galen voth expressely forbidd to giue Theriacle to children. More safe therefore is the vse of
Mithridatium.

A discourse

Mithridatium then of Theriacle, not onely in respect of the heating quality, which seemeth lesse, & more gentle in Mithridatium: but also in respect that a greater quantity of Opium is in Theriacle. For admit that Opium by fermentation sustayneth great alteration, notwithstanding \bar{h} common forme of Theriacle taketh some infection of Opium, \bar{h} some effecte declining to his nature, doth also proceede, and the more, if that stupefying and dormitory power in Opium, doth depend rather of property of substance, then of manifest cooling quality, as some do argue. For the properties of substance in medicines, haue not like alteration by fermentation, as the manifest qualities haue by reaction: we may therefore feare the common and often vse of Theriacle for \bar{h} quantity of Opium in it. For like reason, often vse of Theriacle may be suspected, because of the flesh of vipers added to it, as the base & ground of the medicine. For notwithstanding \bar{h} great care of the place, of the time, of the kinde obserued in taking and choosing of the viper, the diligence in preparing, the care of myxture with other things, for the better correction of the malignity of \bar{h} beast, which hapely might remaine in the flesh: yet a man may doubt of some error committed, in so dangerous a case.

And

of Mithridatium.

And though all thinges therein bee ryghtely done, yet some little quality of the nature of þe beast will remayne, that a man may suspect often to vse the medicine. And where kinge Mithridates was expert in phisicall matters, it is not to be adiudged but that he did aswell know the nature of the flesh of vipers, as hee knewe the venime of the beast: so it is very likely that he purposing to compounde a me-
dy-
cine to be often taken for his safety against poison, did of purpose make it without the fleshe of vipers, knowing that if he shold haue added that, he myght noe with like safety haue dayly vled þe same. And what learned men doe so often in these dayes counsell Theriacle, as do Mithridatium: and we doe in this our time with lesse danger and more security, for the meales, the smale pockes, the wormes, and for internal diseases in children, geue Mithridatium then Theriacle. We may therefore in mine opinion iustly conclude, that Mithridatium is a medicine more generally to be vled, & may oftener and with more safety be geauen then Theriacle.

*Of the age and keeping of
Mithridatium.*

Where

A discourse



where we haue sufficiently declared that compounde medicines must haue a time of fermentation before they be brought to vse: this place requireth that we doe declare the tyme, when Mithridatium is sufficiently fermented and come to his perfection. Galen in his booke *de Theriaca* doth write exactly of the time of fermentation of Theriacle, affirming that it is thoroughly concocted in xii yeares, not denyng but y it hath concoction in shorter time, as in 5. and in 7. yeares, so that we are to iudge that Theriacle is not sufficiently ripe to bee vsed before five yeares, and in 7 yeares is better digested, & in xij yeares hath his full fermentation, and perfect concoctiō. Yet Aetius and Paulus Aegineta doe measure the concoction of Theriacle in shorter time. For Aetius sayth that Theriacle is fermented in xij monethes, and that it may be vsed after one moneth in some cases, and so affirmeth that it endureth to thirty yeares. Where Paulus appointeth y age of Theriacle to be twenty yeares therein he doth not greatly differ from Aetius: for hee making the terme of Theriacle to be 30 yeares, doth also say that then it is good in light diseases. So that by Aetius, Theriacle may be vsed after xij monethes.

of Mithridatism.

monethes, and continueth in good perfection to
20. yeares, and after declineth, that at 30. yeares
it is aged, yet may it be vsed in diseases which
are not very great. Our later writers doe ge-
nerally better allowe of Acius & Paulus opi-
nion for the age of Theriacle, then of Galens:
and some suppose an error or fault in y^e place
in Galen: and so they doe affirme y^e Theriacle
is fully concocted in the space of xij monethes,
and then may bee sold of the Apothecary: and
that the same being well kepte, will continue
in good strength 20. yeares, and after doth de-
cline and waxe weaker, and yet may be vsed
when it is 30. yeares olde, but it is then as an
old man decayed, and weake of strength.

Of Mithridatium the former writers haue
 let downe no time of concoction, leauing to a
 wyse man to determyne of y^e, which is written
 accordingly of Theriacle. For bycause these
 two medicines are conected of many simples,
 not greatly differring, they haue many things
 comon: so as y^e which is of y^e one affirmed, may
 bee applied to the other. Notwithstanding as
 in the number & nature of y^e simples, they doe
 not in all places agree: so no doubt in y^e age of
 these medicines some difference is to be allot-
 ted: yet such, as a man exercised in these mat-
 ters, may easily supplye. For in that Theria-
 cle

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cle hath in it the flesh of vipers, and a greater portion of Opium, then is in Mithridatium, it is certaine that Theriacle requireth a longer time to his concoction: for the flesh of vipers must haue perfect fermentation with the simples for his correction. In like sorte Opium doth aske a long time of fermentation, & for y^e cause Galen. 12. de Method. Medend. saith, y^e Philonium is not to bee vsed in a yeare after it is compounded, and that the vse of it after ij. iij. or iiij. yeares, is more without daunger. Whereby hee geueth vs to vnderstande, that medicines which doe receaue Opium, require longe time of fermentation: so that Theriacle receauing a greater portion of Opium then Mithridatium, ought to haue a larger space to be concocted, then it. Now if Theriacle hath his perfection in one yeare, surely Mithridatium is thoroughly fermented in fixe monethes, and may be kept in good strength, not only as some haue written to thre, or foure yeares, but to x. or xii. yeares: and except we shall to such time prologe his olde age, there will be no proportion in y^e times. For if Theriacle being cocted in one yeare, doth last to 20. yeares before it doth waxe olde, suerly by the lyke proportion, Mithridatium not well fermented vnder six monethes, may iustly be said

of Mithridatium.

to continue in good efficacy to 10. or 12. yeares.
And as Theriacle after 20. yeares waxeth old &
feeble: so Mithridatium after 10. or 12. yeares
doth decline, that being 20. yeares old, is then
decayed and of litle force. As we may proba-
bly determine these times, so there can be no
certainty set to lead us to the time. For if the
simples be not in good perfection, or the same
orderly and well according to are composited,
or otherwayes the medicine not well kept:
then it will sooner wax old, & lose his strength.
But as Galen writeth, to these great medi-
cines, great care must be had of the choise of
simples, that they may be had in the readiest per-
fection. And like diligence must be giuen, that
the confectioner may in all pointes doe his du-
ty, not in making only, but also in keeping the
medicine. And therefore princes are greatly to
bee commended, which doe by thei^r authozity
prouide, that these medicines myght be well
ordered. And for that many doe in these dayes
procure Mithridatium, to haue it in thei^r
houses ready to vse, it is good to know that it is
best kept in vessels of glasse, of siluer, and of
gold, and that it is not so good to keepe the same
in Tinne vessels, for that they are often cor-
rupted with leade, and gather a ceruse matter,
as Galen writeth in his first booke de Antid. A

A discourse

With therefore that the marchaunts may here-
of be admonished, which doe commonly buyng
Theriacle from Venice, in vessels of ledde,
wherby no small dainger may grow in so no-
ble a medicine, & so greatly esteemed. So wee
must not fill the vessell to the toppe, as we say
byrme full, but leave some reasonable space,
for the medicine to worke, to exhale, & breath;
and for that cause, Galen counsaileth to open
the vessell somtymes.

*Howe to knowe good Mithri-
datum.*



Et doe read in þ booke of Ga-
len *de Theriaca ad Pisonem*, &
in his bookes *de Antidot.* how
diligently hee labored to giue
certain notes and rules, how a
man might know the goodnes
of Theriacle, and when the same was perit:
and so did in those his workes set downe both
rules and proofes thereof. So carefull in old
time wyters were, that wee might be assured
of the goodnes of these noble medicines, ser-
uing in so great affectes, and in such common
vse. But such is þ malice of many which seeke
gaine, that of the greater price a thinge is, the
more sophistication they vse in it: þ if meanes
were not declared, to discern the good from
the

Of Mithridatium.

the bad, the sophisticated from y^e true : no man might assure himself of the certaintie of any thing in estimation. It is therefore very necessary, to shew how men may know when Mithridatium is good and perfite, and when the same is naught & corrupted. And for y^e Galen in his foresaid booke, hath labored to declare this in Theriacle, we will apply the same to y^e examination of Mithridatium. For in y^e these medicines haue a great affinitie, they doe in most thinges so concurre, that y^e same which is said of y^e one, may be applyed to y^e other. First therefore in consistence of substance if Mithridatium be well and artificially compounded, it ought to haue an equality of substance, not drie nor ouer liquide, and moyste, not to arise in clots and lumpes, but it must be in substance coherent, equall, and smooth. In smell it must resemble the simples whereof it is made, and yet not to offer to the nose, the smell of any one simple aboue the rest, but to yelde a common odoure arising by fermentation of all the simples, not peculier to any one, nor vngratefull, but answerable to the ingredience, resembling no rottennes, nor mustines.

In like sort, the taste must not expresse any one simple, but be as a common sapor, resulting of all the simples : so that if in tasting of Mithri-

A discourse

latium, you may manifestly discerne or distry any one simple in it, surely that Mithridatium is not well confected. Therefore it may not haue in it any excelle of vngratefull bitternes, which doth sometimes happen, when the confectioner doth either take hony ouerold, or boyle y^e same ouermuch. So it may not shew to the taste any sowrenes, which happeneth if the wyne vsed be not well chosen, or not well handled in the compounding.

It seemeth that Andromachus in his Theriacle had a great care of the coloure of it, and for that cause only (as some do write) did adde vitreoll prepared, to yelde to it an exact blacknesse. But Mithridates attending rather the goodnes, then by coloure to please y^e eye, had no such care of the coloure, and so is thought to put nothing into Mithridatium to giue it any fresher coloure then the simples woulde yelde. Notwithstanding Mithridatium truly made, hath his coloure conuenient arising of the simples, which ought to be a litle rednes declining to yealownesse, which coloure, after due fermentation, doth appeare with some freshenes, & by time in keeping, the same doth decline to an obscure darknes. Although at y^e first it may be thought hard to iudge of Mithridatium by these signes, yet after a man
is ex-

is exercised in often beewing, tasting, and smel-
ling of Mithridatium, his sauoure, colour, &
taste will be so familiar, that a man shall quick-
ly discern the true from the mingled, the so-
phisticated from the right composited. A man
therefore that wil iudge herein, must often see,
taste, and smel to Mithridatium, vntil his sen-
ses bee thoroughly acquainted with the quali-
ties of the medicine, and then hee shall not bee
easily deceaued.

For better certainty of the perfection and
goodnesse of Theriacle, Galen both mention
of certaine experiments to be made for triall
thereof: as to giue the same to such as haue
ben either hurt externaly by some venomous
beaste, or haue taken inwardly some poison.
Whereof princes haue made trial in cōdem-
ned persons, casting thē to vipers, or giueing
vnto them some strong popson, & after cau-
sing them to take of Theriacle the quantity
of a nutte: and experience declared, that
such as tooke Theriacle escaped the venime
of the popson, and they which tooke it not, dy-
ed. Which prooffe experienced in Theriacle,
may also be applied to the triall of Mithrida-
tium, and in that by all auncient writers Mi-
thridatium is reputed of greater force then
Theriacle, in curing all poysons inwardly ta-

ken: It followeth, that if it be good and truly made, it must remedy such as haue taken poison into the body. And because cōmon persons haue not like opportunity to make this experiment in men cōdemned, as princes haue: therefore we may in other beasts (as in dogs, in cokes and hennies, being domesticall creatures) experience the same, geuing to these beasts some poison, and after Mithridatium: and if the beast doe take no harme by the poison, we may be assured of the goodnesse of the medicine. And ϕ like is to be expected, if you giue the remedy before the poison be taken. For the medicine doth not onely defend the body from the veninie of the poison, after it is taken: but also preserve, if it be first vsed: as we read of king Mithridates. In like manner Aetius biideth vs to giue to a doue, to a henne, or to a dogge, the quantity of two scruples of Opium, and straight after to minister to the same, Mithridatium, dissolued in some li- quore, and if it be good and pure, the beaste shall sustaine no harme by the Opium.

Galen deliuereth as a certaine signe of the perfect goodnes of Theriacle, to giue it to one that hath taken a purgatiue medicine. For (saith he) if it be perfect good, the medicine will not purge at all: if after the taking
of

of Mithridatium.

of Theriacle, & medicine doth his operation, & purge neuerthelesse: surely then & Theriacle is imperfect, & not good. We do not read this signe applied to Mithridatium: yet I see no cause but & we may proceede in like maner to try & goodnes of it. For it is certaine & no one simple is in & composition of Theriacle (which may be sayd to stay & working of & purgative medicine) which is not in Mithridatium. For where Theriacle doth abasid with & flesh of vipers, put as the base of the medicine, no wyter hath attributed to & partell any such property. The like may be sayd, if you discourse through all the simples added to this confection of Theriacle, and not in Mithridatium. Therefore it seemeth most agreeable to reason, that the property to stay the working of a purgation, doth proceede from the common forme of Theriacle: and so we may with like reason expect the same effect in Mithridatium, and rather in Mithridatium, because all wyters doe confesse that it is of greater force for inward poisons, and inward affects, then Theriacle. Therefore I may conclude, that Mithridatium giuen after a purgative medicine, will better stay or diminish & working thereof, then Theriacle: and our experience in common practise, doth confirme the same.

For

A discourse

For in this our age, who doth after purgative medicines (to bryde their ouerworking) so often giue Theriacle, as Mithridatium? Wherefore no doubt we may make triall of þ perfection and goodnes of Mithridatium, in like sorte as Galen writeth of Theriacle, that is to say, to minister to one a purgative medicine, and after to giue to the same man a reasonable quantity of Mithridatium: and if the medicine doth not worke according to his nature, or that his operation be lesse thē it ought to be, surely that Mithridatium is very perfect and good. Otherwyle, if þ medicine doth proceede in his action to purge, and the same appeareth not diminished by the taking of Mithridatium, then we may greatly doubt of the goodnes of the Mithridatium.

How we may make good Mithridatium. in these dayes.

I am not ignorant that diuers later writers do constantly affirme that in this our time we cannot make either good Theriacle or good Mithridatium, for that they say we do lacke many simples going into their compositions, and must vse others to supply, and so may iustly doubt whether þ supplies doe in all points
answere

of Mithridatium.

answereth the true simples, and they which we haue are brought from farre countreys, long iournies, some by lād, some by sea, especially to vs in England, whereby they may be thought greatly weakned, and to loose much of their strength and vertues, before we haue them. So they conclude, that we cannot by any diligent meanes, make these medicines in that perfection as the auncient writers did, and so we may not so exactly looke for the effects of these medicines promised by the olde writers. Whereto it may bee sayd, that in parte this allegation is true, and in deede a fewe yeares past, when this fault was found, it was more truer then now it is. For in truch when good learning began to spring after barbarisme, thē in deede great was þe want of true simples, not in these two medicines only, but in many other moe. But now in this our time all things are called to a better examination, and it is certain that few simples are now lacking, namely to þe making of Mithridatium: and it is also euident þe care of phisitions and of þe Apothecaries (I meane of þe better sort) is so honest and so great, þe they doe not only diligently procure from þe places (where the simples which goe to the compositions of these medicines do grow) the very true: but also provide that

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that the same may in those countries be gathered out of convenient places, in due times and seasons. And by help of so many and great navigations into forrain dominions (more in these our dayes vsed, then of longe time before vs) doe giue so good opportunity to haue true and good simples, by to say truly what I do thinke of this our age, I doe verily belieue that we haue as true and as good simples, as Galen had in his time: especially such as are requisite to the making of Mithridatium. For we do reade what a dooe Galen made to haue pure and good Cinnamum, and made it an Emperours worke to procure the same, and in lacke of Cinnamum did sometimes substitute double quantitie of Cassia. Whosoever wil with diligence examine the sakes of Canella, brought from the new found countries in great plenty in these dayes, may easily finde the perfect kindes of Cinnamum, agreeable to the description of y^e old wyters: & also the true Cassia. We may also vnderstand, how in old time things were sophisticated by the monuments of old wyters. And who doth not now perceaue and acknowledg many errors in Dioscorides bookes, in deliuering the descriptions of simples, not so well knowen in his time, as now by these navigations made manifest. Many things
wrytten

of Mithridatium.

written by the auncient authors, by hearesay,
are now to the eye made euident and known.
Wherefore it is true y now in this age things
are so exactly examined, & so diligently sought
for, and so painfully cared for: that in truth I
doe suppose we may make in this time Mithri-
datium, in very good perfection: and the sim-
ples wanting, are few in number: y substitutes
for the same, by learned men so well considered
of, & so aptly appointed: that we neede not so
greatly to doubt thereof, but may iustly expect
th'effects attributed to the medicine, if not in
so large manner as the auncient writers haue
deliuered, yet in such reasonable sorte, y we may
esteeme of the medicine, as of a precious iewel,
as of a thing good against some drie poisons, &
diuers internall and pestilentiall diseases.

*Mithridatium made in England is ra-
ther to bee chosen, then that which is
brought from Venice and other
countrys beyond the
Sea.*

Some haue ben of opinion, that Theriacle &
Mithridatium may better be made in other
countrys, (as namely at Venice, and Con-
stantinople) then in England: affirming that
more

A discourse

more and better simples are growing there; which wee doe lacke: and that such simples which are found neither in these countreys, nor in England, but are procured from y^e east and west Indians, do sooner and in better perfection come to those places, then to vs. Surely if things be rightly weighed, this allegation is not true. For the partes of Italy, and the territories about Constantinople, haue very few or no simples growing in their soyles, which do not spring in England, required to the composition of Mithridatium, and many are founde in England in better perfection thē there. As namely, who doth not graunt the best saffron to be in England, & all trauclers which come into England, do confesse that our soyle doth prodace very good plantes (as namely Scordium) in better kinde than other countreys: and some strangers do send into England often for some of our simples, which do go into the composition of Mithridatium. It is also well knowen, that straunge herbes transplanted hither, and some of seedes sowne, doe very kindly spring in England, which is also confessed of some later writers in thep^r Herballes. And where few simples requisite to make Mithridatium are wanting (as not growing in England) it seemeth most true, that

of Mithridatium.

that they which doe growe here, are most kindly for vs (for natieue things are best agreeable to our constitutions.) So þ whereas the most simples in number required to the composition of Mithridatium, are found naturally to spring in England: I see no cause why we should not best allow of it made heere: neither ought þ paucitie which we do lacke, to draw vs better to esteeme of a forrayne medicine made of all forrain things. And as I dare affirme that in this countrey we do lacke as few simples which go to the making of Mithridatium, as any of the forenamed places: so I may iustly pronounce, that such which are wanting to them, and to vs also, may and are as easily, and in as short time transported to vs, as to them. For in these dayes, the spices and other thinges brought from þ Indians by nauigation to Lishburn, and thence to other countreys of Europe, may as soone be transported to vs as to Venice. Where in times past such marchandise were caried from the east Indians to Alexandria by land vpon Camels, that trade is now decayed, and for þ most part such drugges are imported by sea, and þ ships doe commonly light in some part of Portugal: so that it is easie to see that our Apothecaries in England, may with as good conueniency

A discourse

niency procure the from those places, and in as good perfection, as the marchants of Venice or of Constantinople. Neuerthelesse if any thing lacking with vs, doe come to Venice: it is soone transported thence to Antwerp (as in the space of 24. dayes) & so to vs. Wherefore I doe not conceaue, why any man should thinke y our Apothecaries in England, cannot make Michridactia in as good perfection as other countreies doe: but rather we ought to aduindge y contrary, that it made here, is in as good perfection, and more agreeable to our natures & constitutions, then y which is compounded in other countreys, as altogether made of straunge simples, which haue no affinity with our bodies. And if we do with iudgement consider how vncertaine wee are of the true confection, when it is done in places so farre from vs: it may make vs greatly to feare, least they which do compound y medicine, hauing more care to gaine, then truly to dispence y same, will neither make choise of the best simples, neither vse diligence in the mixture. And if the princes of the countreys with carefull lawes prouide, that the confectioners shall doe their duties truly, in compounding and observing the things needefull to the well handling of so noble a medicine: who can assure himselfe of the truth of the marchant,
in trans

of *Mithridatium*.

in transporting y^e same: whose profession is by
his marchaundize to gaine, & sone doubt will
vse meanes euery way to increase his proficte,
that we may iustly suspect, that they doe ve-
ry seldome bring into England from Venice
or Constantinople, any Theriacle or Mithri-
datium vnmixed: & the better skill they haue
in their trade, with more arte they can sophi-
sticate their wares, to deceaue the iudgement
of the buyer, that I greatly doe doubt y^e litle
or noue at all of these medicines are brought
true and sincere vnmixed: as hath bene tryed
when straungers in England haue purposly
exauined both Theriacle and Mithridatium
compounded in London, with other brought
from the sayd countreyes, & haue giuen praise
to that made in London: as maister Hughe
Morgane her Maiesties Apothecary can wit-
nes, whose confections haue bene better com-
mended by straungers, then any of other places.
Farther, whereas of Mithridatium there are
diuers descriptions, not all of like goodnes (as
I haue before declared) how can we tell what
compositions the confectioner followed: here-
of y^e marchant not hauing care, can not informe
vs: so we remaine vncertaine of the true know-
ledge of the medicine, not hauing knowledg of
the simples vled in that wee buy: and as wee
know not assuredly what kinde of Mithridati-

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um we doe buy : so we remaine vncertaine of
the medicine. And where wee haue declared þ
Theriacle & Mithridatium haue their times
of fermentation, of their durauce, and that
after a certaine age they decline, waxe old, &
feeble: we cannot know the time of that which
is foraine made: so we haue vncertaine medi-
cine, and shall be vncertaine how long we may
keepe the same. All which circumstances may
be easily knowne, in that which is made in En-
gland. Galen in his bookes doth not allowe
NB. of Theriacle kept in Tinne vessels, affirming
that they are corrupted with ledde, the cerasse
whereof doth corrupt þ medicine. What shall
we then say to our marchauntes, which doe
bring Mithridatium & Theriacle from other
countrys in vessels of ledde? doe not these
medicines take of þ vessels great corruption,
and notwithstanding are solde to the great an-
noyance of the Queenes subiects? Wherefore
if we doe truely weigh in the ballance of rea-
son, that which I haue here written (and yet
much more may in this matter be sayd) surely
we shall not onely confesse that none of these
medicines, specially Mithridatium, made in
foraine places, are, or ought to be so greatly
esteemed, as those which are made at home in
England. And we may truely confesse that we
are

of Mithridatium.

are iustly punished in expending our money ha-
pon foraine things, when we haue & may haue
better at home. And it is very lamentable to
consider, y^e straungers doe dayly send into En-
gland a false & naughty kinde of Mithridati-
um, & Threacle, in great barrells, more then a
thousand weight in a yeare, and vnder y^e same
at a lowe price, for iij. s. or iiii. s. a pound, to y^e
great hurt of Her Maiesties subiects, and no
small gaine to straungers purses. Therefore
to conclude, I do counsell all English men ra-
ther to buy Mithridatium truly made in En-
gland, then that which is brought from other
countreys. And here it is to be wished, that our
most gracious Soueraigne thereof informed,
may by Her magistrates doe, as in olde time
Emperoures of Rome did, that is, by her e-
dict take order, that our Apothecaries may
with care and diligence select the simples
which doe go to the making of this medicine,
that the true may bee gotten in their best per-
fections, and the same truely chosen may bee
rightly dispensed, and in all pointes according
to arte well ordered, the time of fermentation
duely obserued, the maner of keeping in good
sorte performed: and so all things rightly ad-
ministr'd by her Maiesties carefull ordinaun-
ces, I doe not doubt, but y^e wee shall in this

A discourse

our countrie haue both Mithridatium & Theriacle in good perfection, that we may finde the great effects and noble vertues of both, so largely deliuered by the auncient wryters in their monuments.

Of the vertues and propertyes of Mithridatium.



GALEN in his booke *de Antidot.* doth not particularly expresse the properties of this medicine: but generally enunceth, that it doth good against all poisons, and is stronge to remedie many inwarde diseases. It doth appeare by sundry places in Galen, that Mithridatium hath all the vertues which Theriacle hath, and is inferior to it only in the curing of the biting of vipers, and such other venemous beastes: in other things it doth excell Theriacle. Then where Galen at large displayeth the faculties & vertues of Theriacle in his booke *De Theriaca ad Pisonem*, & *ad Pamphilianū*, he needed not particularly to set downe the properties of Mithridatium. For it doth suffice for vs to looke into the qualities & powers of Theriacle to learne the faculties of Mithridatium. But the latter wryters in all their antidotoxies doe

Of Mithridatium.

doe expresse þ same at large. In which booke
we do reade thus.

Mithridatium is next in qualite and vertue
to Theriacle, and doth little differ from it,
saue that Theriacle is in temperament hoat-
ter, and stronger against þ biting of serpents.
Concerning other properties of Mithridati-
um confusedly numbred in these booke,
it will not be amysse to reduce them to a
methode and order: So we may affirme
that the effects and vertues of Mithridatium
doe consist in two speciall points. First to pre-
serue from infirmities, then to cure diseases.
For as Galen writeth, this medicine doth not
onely cure affects which are ingendred, and
helpe to remedy poison taken: but vsed before,
doth so defend, þ poison giuen after shall doe
no harme, as happened to king Mithridates,
when he would haue poisoned himselfe. Who
so vseth Mithridatium in health, shall in such
sorte make his body strong, þ neither poiso, nor
other disease shall easely harme him. And as
man consisteth of body and soule, so Mithrida-
tiu doth in both exercise his vertues. His pro-
perties are such, that it quickeneth the senses,
cleareth the minde, and sharpeneth the
witte. Which actiones it perfourmeth
by cleansing the instrumentes which doe
serue

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serue to these fictions, from grosse and thick vapours. And where oftentimes many fumes doe ascend, by the which the animal spirits are obscured, the vse of Mithridatium doth dissipate, extenuate, & consume the same: whereby these animal facultyes & powers are cleared, and so a persite minde is preserved in a whole body. For Mithridatium maketh strong all parts which doe serue for nutrition, increaseth naturall heate, openeth obstructions, expelleth superfluity, whereby the naturall faculties of the body doe perfectly performe their functions, the stomacke in good order bestreth and digesteth alimentes, the liuer maketh good and persit blood, and ech parte putteth from him his excrementes in convenient order and time. So the hart receiuing pure blood, maketh good spirits fit for his actions, which he orderly sendeth to the animal partes, & to other members of y^e body. Whereby all the principall partes being in their perfections, doe euery way well dispence through the body, that it remayneth in good order to performe all actions. And whereas mā is subiect to many casualties, Mithridatium vled as is sayd, so defendeth the body, that no poison shall easely harme it. Whereof Mithridates gaue prooffe, who by longe vse of this medicine.

Of Mithridatium.

so altered the constitution of his body, that no poison could annoy it.

In pestilentiall seasons, it preserveth such as do vse it: where of we haue examples, not only in auncient writers, but also in our daily experience.

Now concerning þ parte curatiue, though the same may be gathered by that which is already written in preseruatiō: yet it is better for order sake to repeate one thing often, then to be thought insufficient by omitting any thing. Wherefore we may say with the olde authors (which prooue also confirmeth) that Mithridatium remedyeth diseases of the minde, taketh away straunge imaginations, helpeth melancholy phantasies & passions, which drawe men often to desperation. This it performeth by altering the blood, opening the spleene, by chaunging and dissipating the vapores arising of the melancholy humore, and peelding to the animall spirits pure and good exhalations, and by comforting the hart. And where oftentimes colde and grosse fumes do ascend so plentifully, that the wittes are dulled, the senses and discourse of reason either greatly impaired or cleane taken away, the iudgment and memory hurt or abolished: Mithridatium by his sweete brethings quic-

A discourse

keneth the same, reduceth the bzaine] to his temperament, altereth, consumeth, & spendeth those vapoures, and bringeth man to his naturall state, and when it is newe, it induceth sleepe, and remediethe the furpousnes of many madmen.

No man needeth to doubt of the mighty power of Mithridatium, in curing all kind of poisons either outwardly receaued or inwardly taken, being to that purpose chefly devised, and of long time experienced to be therein of great soze. Although for the biting and stinging of venemous beastes, it is supposed of lesse might then Theriacle: yet it is of all men confessed much stronger to cure poisons, taken into the body by potion, or other wayse. So his might is great to heale all pestilent all and malignante diseases, cureth the plague, scauers which depend of naughty and malignant causes, helpeth the french pocks, the small pocks, the measels: and in all other inward diseases which are great, and such as other medicines can not remedy, Mithridatium is found to haue a speciall grace to cure them. And in such desperate diseases & cases, when other remedies will not serue, then we ought to flye to Mithridatium, as Galen writeth of Theriacle.) For being a noble medicine of
great

of Mithridatium.

great powre, it is not to be vsed in euery affect of little moment.

Wherefore it is written that Mithridatium cureth all infirmities of the head in men, and women, if the same doe come of a cold cause: namely it helpeth the melancholy madness, the falling sicknes, the Hemicrane or meagrame, the paines in the eyelids and browes, the watering of the eyes, the paines of the eares, of the teeth, of the mouth, of the iawes, the squinancy, the appoplexy, the litargie, and such other cold diseases of the head: in which cases it is inwardly dronken, & also outwardly applyed, spreade in the forme of an emplasire: it comforteth the hart, & doth good in the passions of the same.

It helpeth the diseased of the breast, cureth the cough, shortnes of breath, spitting of bloud, the pleurisy and stiches of the side, the phthisike & other inward diseases of the breast and loings. In these later causes, especially for stiches, it is applyed outwardly, spread emplasire waies, and in the chough and such other diseases, it is inwardly ministred with some conuenient liquor: for so it cutteth the grosnes of the phlegme, and maketh it easy to be auoyd, openeth the pipes, and enlargeth all those parts which doe serue for breathing.

To proceede to the affects of the stomake, it
procto.

A discourse

prouoketh appetite, remedieth ouer much desire to eat, termed *Canina appetentia*: for it drieth superfluous, & resoluethe & correcteth corrupte humores: it helpeth concoctiō, by increasing of naturall heate, cureth euill belks, & inflation of the stomacke: for it breaketh winde, and will not suffer any thing to corrupt in þe stomacke: it stayeth vomiting by strengthening the stomacke: by keeping the stomacke cleane from winde, superfluous, and euill humores, it taketh away the abhorring of meate.

It doth great good in all diseases of the belly, paynes in þe guts, called the *liaca passio*, the bloody flux, and all other fluxes giuen with the decoction of the flowers of the pomegranate called *Balaustia*. In the colike of the belly it is very good, and to ease the paynes of the belly after a purgatiue medicine, it hath a speciall vertue. For it taketh away the malignitie of the medicine, breaketh winde, and doth strengthen parts weakened by the purgatiue medicine. It nourisheth diseases & paynes in the sydes and about the mydriffe, it helpeth the infirmities of þe kidnes, and of the bladder, breaketh the stone, remedieth the passions of the matrix, prouoketh the naturall courses in women, and stoppeth the same if they doe abounde.

of Mithridatium.

bound. For it openeth the passages by extenuating that which by grossnes doth stoppe the wayes: and by making nature stronge, staieeth fluxes, which commonly do grow immoderate by weaknes. It diminisheth y^e swellings & hardnes of y^e matrix, & of other parts, it doth remedy y^e barrennes in women, & maketh them fertile. Mithridatium is accompted a speciall good remedy against the payne of the ioynts, to cure the goutte and the Sciatica, for that it drieth superfluous humores, stayeth the reume, & maketh all parts stronge. But it must be giuen, not at the first, when the payn beginneth, but after: when the rage of the paine is past, and the body ought first to be purged before you giue Mithridatium. And it vled before the fits of the gouttes, maketh greatly for preservation, to keepe one from often accessions of y^e goutte. It helpeth y^e diseases of the sinewes, y^e resolution, y^e palsy, the crampe, y^e diseases called Tetanos Ambrosotonos, and Opisthanos: for it augmenteth naturall heate, dissolueth, by euaporation, humores soken into y^e sinewes, & restoreth the spirits and strength. It helpeth the shaking fits of feauers, & geauen twyse or thrixe halfe an houre before the fitte, oftentimes it doth cure the feauer quartan and the quotidian.

Of

A discourse

Of the vse of Mithridatium.

The better to know the vse of Mithridatium, we are to consider the time most conuenient to giue it, the quantity, & the maner of giueing. For the time, we may with Galen counsaile to minister the same in no wyse vpon a full stomacke, but after concoction is perfic. The vsuall time and best to take it, is in the morning fasting, it is not so good to giue it when the stomacke and first beines are full of crude and rawe humoures. And before it be giuen, it is good to procure the belly to be loose, according to Galens counsell in ministering of Theriacle, in his booke *ad Pamphilianum*.

Of the quantity.

As Galen writeth in his booke *de Theriaca ad Pisonem*, so we may affirme that one quantity of Mithridatium is not to bee giuen to all men, in all times, and in all diseases. And the better to finde out the iust quantity, wee are to remember, that Galen in the sayd booke mentioneth of two quantities giuen of Theriacle, the one referred to a basell nut, the other to a beane of Egypt. And for that he also affirmeth, y in strong diseases the greater quantity is to be giuen, and the lesser in light diseases, and so in great infirmities hee
mi.

of Mithridatium.

ministreth the quantity of an hasell nut, and in diseases of lesse force, bleth the portion of the beane of Egypt: it is euident that the hasell nut importeth the greater quantity, and the beane the lesser. So that by Galen the greatest quantity to be giuen of Theriacle, is measured by an hasell nut, and the least by a beane of Egypt. And the forme of speach which Galen bleth to expresse these quantities, in my iudgement doth importe the bignesse, and not the weight of the things. For Galen in euery place writeth *ad magnitudinem fabæ egyptiæ*. & so *ad magnitudinem nucis auellane*, to the micheltty or bignes of a beane of Egypt, the bignes of an hasel nut. Which maner of spech hath relation to the bignes & not y weight. We are therefore to construe Galen, that in great diseases Theriacle is to be ministred, that his bulke may bee equall with the bignes of an hasell nut, and in other diseases, of a beane of Egypt. Massarius in his booke *de ponderibus*, reducing these things to weight, saith that *Faba Egyptia* importeth a scruple and a halfe, that is, halfe a drachine: and that *nux auellana* signifieth a drachine. So if we will by weight measure the quantities, the greatest which is to be giuen of Theriacle is a drachine, and the least is halfe a drachine.

In

A discourse

In that Mithridatium is like to Theriacle,
it may be giuen in like quantity. And because
it is more gentle, and not in quality so whot as
Theriacle, and not receiuing the flesh of bi-
pers, nor so great quantity of Opium, it is a
more safe medicine & so may be giuen in grea-
ter quantity, that wee neede not be bounde to
an halfe nut, nor to a beane of Egypt, but
may as cause shall require exceede both. For
which cause the writers of our antidotoꝝ
bookes, not without reason doe affirme, that
Mithridatium may bee ministred to foure
Drachines, that is halfe an ounce. And Dura-
ntes in his cōmentary vpon *Luminare Ma-*
ius bzinging the quantity of a nut, and of a
beane to ʒ weight, saith that an halfe nut sig-
nifieth an ounce, and ʒ beane of Egypt halfe
a scruple, and because the one proportion is ve-
ry great, the other ouer litle: therefore he put-
teth his sentence, that an halfe nut containeth
ʒ. Drachines, or *iiij. Drachines* at ʒ most. And
the beane of Egypt one *Drachine*, or *ij. Dra-*
chines at the most. So that by his opinion we
may minister Theriacle to *ʒ. or iiij. Drachines*,
when the disease and the case so requireth.
Therefore wee neede not greatly to feare to
giue Mithridatium in so large a quantity as
is prescribed in our antidotoꝝ, that is, to
mini

minister it to halfe an ounce. Neuerthelesse
in these dayes wee doe very seldome minister
Mithridatium so largely: for most comonly
we follow the prescript of Galen, and giue of
it the quantity of a beane, or of an hallow nut.
In meature wee prescribe halfe a *drachine* and
two *scruples*, and in mighty diseases, and vrg-
gent causes we offerre one *drachine*, and ve-
ry seldome doe procede to a greater quantity:
which proportions in my iudgement are most
vsually to be kept. Yet by this discourse it ap-
pereth, y we are not so to be restrained to these
quantities, but that we may vpon occasions
giue a greater quantity, if the patient, the
disease, & other circumstances doe so require.
And hereby also it appeareth, that we cannot
so determine the quantity of this medicine,
nor of any other, that the same may alway be
observed: but the certaine appointment of the
same must bee left to the discretion of him
which doth minister the medicine, to prescribe
the quantity according to the circumstances
of the present case. And therefore it shall not
be amisse here to consider more particularly of
the circumstances, whereby we may the better
attaine to coniecture the iust quantity to bee
giuen in the present case. First therefore wee
are to consider the countrey where the party
which

which is to take the medicine, doth inhabite, & here also the time of yeare. And as Galen writeth of Theriacle, that in the East partes & in heate countreyes, in sommer and hoate seasons it is not to be ministred: so we may affirme of Mithridatium, y^e in heate countreyes & seasons we ought to refraine frō much geiuing of it. Eitherfore when occasion is to giue in sommer, we must prescribe a lesser quantity then in winter, and in the spring time. So we may giue a bigger quantity in these north parts, then in hoater countreyes. The like respect is to be had of the liqore in which wee giue it, that in hoate places & seasons it be mingled with a cold liqor, as with water: and in cold countries and times with a whot liqore, as with wyne.

The like consideration is to bee had of the temperament of the body, and of the age. In which respect Galen doth forbid cholerike & hoate constitutions to take Theriacle. And such must with more warinesse vse Mithridatium, and in lesser quantity and mingled with some conuenient liqore, moderate the heate of the medicine.

Concerning age, Galen doth forbid the giuing of Theriacle to children, for (saith he) the mightines of the medicine doth excede the strength

Of Mithridatium.

strength of children, and dissolueth their bodies: and telleth an history of a childe destroyed by taking of Theriacle. We may therefore admonishe physicians of these dayes, which doe often & boldly giue Theriacle to purge children for the wormes: let them consider what warrant they haue so to doe: it is to be feared lest they endanger thereby so tender bodies. And we are to be circumspect in giuing Mithridatium to children, and to be very wary in y^e ministring of it, lest we do harme therein. And yet I do thinke we may with more safety minister Mithridatium then Theriacle. To young men & such as haue much natural heate, we may giue this medicine: but neither oftē, nor in great quantity, & in water rather then wine. To mē of yeres which are in y^e declining age, in greater quantity, and in wyne. In respect of the disease we are so to measure the quantity of the medicine, that in a mighty and a strong disease, we giue a greater quantity. Therefore as Galen wytteth of Theriacle, so we may determine of Mithridatium. In strōg poppon, and to such as are bitten and stinged with virulent beastes or mad dogs, we giue a greater quantity: in other diseases the quantity of the medicine ought to be according to the greatnes of the sickness. So when there is

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A discourse

time to digest the medicine, we may appoynt a greater quantity: when little time is for concoction, then lesser quantity serueth. The like consideration is to be made in all these circumstances of y^e liquoze, in which the medicine is to be dissolued, the same to be of a greater or lesser measure, according to y^e circumstances: whereof we are to speake moze particularly in the maner of giueing.

Of the manner of giueing of Mithridatium.

By that we doe reade in Galen in his bookes *de Theriaca* and *de Antidot.* yt appeareth that thaucient physician did seldom, or not at all giue: either Theriacle or Mithridatium dry, and not dissolued in some liquoze. and the reason may be, for that they gaue it most commonly before or after poison, or to preserve or cure some pestilentall sicknes, which depended of a malignant cause. In which respect, it seemeth requisite to minister the medicine in liquid forme, that it might haue the speedy passage through the body, and come to the heart, that the spirites comforted, might the better resist and the sooner expell the venym, and the malignity of the affect. For not only Mithridatium

of Mithridatium.

6. 2.

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A discourse

had not much naturall heate, & in diseases not
ouerhoate, & in strong poplons. Contrariwise
in hoate regions, in sommer time, in such as
were in the flower of their age, and had cho-
lerike and hoat constitutions, dry bodies, and
did abound with naturall heate, in hoate
cholerike sicknesses, in great feauers, he made
choise of a colde liquoze hauinge regarde
that the liquoze might contemper and miti-
gate in some part the quality of the medicine.
Which intensions applied to h giueing of Mi-
thridatium, it will be easy to choose a fit li-
quoze, when we are to minister the same in it.
For the same circumstances will soone induce
vs to make choise of a conuenient liquoze.
wee may also learne by Galen, that as the
circumstances are to leade vs to appoynte
the quality of the liquoze, as is aforesayde:
So the disposition of the disease will teach
vs to apt a conuenient liquoze in substances:
for it is agreeable to reason, that such a li-
quoze bee giueen, which may not only miti-
gate the quality of the medicine, but with ha-
uing also property to doe good in that disease,
may further the action of the medicine. So by
good reason in pestilentiall agues, in mali-
gnant diseases, the pockes, h meafels, we doe
giue Mithridatium with the dissolved water
of

of Mithridatum.

of Dragon, or of Carduus benedictus, or in
some like decoction, and we doe in such cases
manytimes mingle with þ syrupe *de acetositate*
citri syrupe *acetosus*, which things doe not on-
ly mitigate the heate of the medicine, but also
help and further his action. In þ cough, and
diseases of the breaste and syde, wee may with
Galen choose wine and water called *mulsura*
when þ patient is without a feauer: in a feauer
with water and honny called *mulsu*. In such
as are shorthe breather, it is best giuen with
vineger compounded with *scilla*, to them which
spit bloude, at the beginning, with water and
honny, which we call meade, after, with water
only, but the medicine will be more effectuell, if
you doe boyle the rootes of Comfrey in it. In
diseases and paine of the belly, with water. In
stoppages of the lyuer, the yeaue Jaundies,
the Dropsie, with an opening decoctiō, as the
decoction of the rootes of *Asarabacca*. And in
respect of the drouth in the Dropsie, it may be
giuen in meade. In diseases of the kidnes
and bladder, with the decoction of persley, and
in vlcers of the kidnes, with wine and water,
in excoiation of the guttes, with a decoction
of Sumach: to those which haue the falling
sicknes, if they be leane, with meade, & it were
two lōge, and to litle purpose thus particular-

A discourse

ly to runne thorough all diseases. we may easily appoint a convenient liqore, and prescribe þ quantity of þ medicine, & of the liqore, by þ which is written, and thought I haue for example sake (for examples doe best teach) discoursed in many diseases, appointing such liqores which Galen doth vse and best allowe of, yet I doubt not but an expert man will for the present case, diuise much better, by indication taken of the circumstaunces before mentioned. That a man well weighing these thinges, may quickly knowe the true vse of Michridatium, and so not erre in the ministration thereof, but giue the same to the greates good of those, which shall take it, and to the honour of God, whose goode we giue the success to al medicines, to worke health where and when it pleaseth his holy wisdom.

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